

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 14-18, and 22 are now pending in this application. Claims 3, and 19-21 have been canceled by this amendment.¹ Claims 1, 8, and 14-16 have been amended to remove non-elected subject matter. Claim 17 and 18 have been amended consistent with the May 30, 2007 telephonic interview with SPE Wilson, discussed in greater detail below. No new matter is added herein.

II. Interview Summary

On May 30, 2007, Applicants' representative and SPE James O. Wilson discussed the scope of the allowable subject matter in a telephonic interview. Applicants thank SPE Wilson for his time and courtesy in conducting this interview. During the interview, it was agreed that claim 17, which had been expressly included within Group I as defined by the February 14, 2007 Restriction Requirement, contained allowable subject matter, as it incorporated all the limitations of allowed claim 1. For the same reasons, the Examiner also indicated that claims 18 and 22 contained allowable subject matter and could be rejoined. It was suggested by the Examiner that claim 17 be amended to shorten the preamble and that claim 18 be amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 20.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Office for the indication of allowable subject matter in the May 2, 2007, Office Action, and May 30, 2007, telephonic interview. Further, in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 821.04, and the express invitation for rejoinder in the Office

¹ Claims 9-13 were canceled previously, in the April 2, 2004, Preliminary Amendment.

Action, Applicants respectfully request that the Office rejoin the methods and processes of pending claims 18 and 22. Applicants submit that the method and process claims are commensurate in scope with the allowed composition claims, and thus should be rejoined in the present application.

IV. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request that the Office return an initialed copy of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 30, 2007, acknowledging the consideration of each reference.

V. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request timely allowance of the pending claims.


Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at 202-408-4092 to discuss any matters remaining in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 4, 2007

By: 
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